

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 02868 261245Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3280

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2868

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CVIS, CPAS, RO

SUBJ: TRADE BILL: CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF RABBI ROSEN

REF: A) BUCH 2765 B) 2817 C) TEL AVIV 4033

1. RABBI ROSEN HAS RETURNED FROM JERUSALEM CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC THEN HE DEPARTED. HE QUOTES ALLON AS HAVING ASKED HIM TO TELL MACOVESCU THAT ISRAEL WILL SUPPORT MFN FOR ROMANIA. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO RABBI ROSEN, ALLON GAVE HIM A WHOLE SERIES OF ARGUMENTS WHY IT WAS IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR TO SEE THAT ROMANIA GETS MFN. AT THE SAME TIME WITHOUT MAKING IT A CONDITION, ALLON ASKED ROSEN TO PRESS MACOVESCU FOR A ROMANIAN "GESTURE". IN TERMS OF SPEEDING UP DEPARTURES OF JEWS FOR ISRAEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE CONVINCING STATISTICS FOR PEOPLE LIKE SENATOR JACKSON.

2. RABBI ROSEN CALLED THE RESULTS TO DATE OF THE CENSUS OF WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL "DISAPPOINTING." HE HAD ESTIMATED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 3-5000 WHO WOULD REGISTER AS HAVING SOUGHT EMIGRATION UNSUCCESSFULLY. TO DATE THE RESULTS FROM BUCHAREST NUMBER ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED AND PROVINCIAL CENTERS ARE RECEIVING NUMBERS IN THE TENS. THEREFORE HE HAS DECIDED TO KEEP THE LISTS OPEN FOR AN AS YET UNDETERMINED FURTHER PERIOD TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS MISSED. REGARDING THE SMALL NUMBERS REGISTERED, HE THINKS PART OF THE EXPLANATION COMES FROM THE FACT THAT PASSPORTS ARE BEGINNING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUCHAR 02868 261245Z

TO GET INTO APPLICANTS' HANDS SOMEWHAT FASTER BUT HE IS MORE WORRIED

ABOUT THE GAP BETWEEN AMERICAN JEWISH EXPECTATIONS
AND FIGURES HE IS NOW GETTING FROM HIS CENSUS.

3. HE STILL PLANS TO TALK TO RABBI MILLER IN GENEVA WHOM HE
DID NOT SEEK OUT IN ISRAEL ANYMORE THAN RABBI MILLER DID HIM.
HE WILL ALSO HAVE TALKS WITH PHILIP KLUTZNICK BUT IN VIEW
OF ISRAELI ASSURANCES AS RECEIVED HE IS NOT NOW INCLINED TO
MAKE A BROAD APPEAL TO THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LEADERS TO VISIT
ROMANIA. I TOLD HIM THAT EVEN WITH ISRAELI ASSURANCES IT WAS
STILL WELL TO KEEP UP THE DIALOGUE AND TO HAVE PEOPLE CONTINUE
TO COME HERE FOR WHATEVER IMPRESSIONS THEY COULD GAIN.

4. HE IS STILL THINKING OF A TRIP TO WASHINGTON HIMSELF
ALTHOUGH AGAIN IN LIGHT OF ISRAELI ASSURANCES NOT NOW IN TERMS
OF APPEARING HIMSELF BEFORE ANY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BUT TO
TALK TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.
IN THAT LIGHT IT WOULD STILL BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE THAT I REQUESTED IN
PARA 10 REFTEL A. RABBI ROSEN AND I HAVE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN
SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA TO COMPARE NOTES
ON HIS ANTICIPATED CONVERSATION WITH MACOVESCU.

5. IN LIGHT OF BOTH RABBI MILLER'S STATEMENTS AND NOW RABBI
ROSEN'S ABOUT ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE I THINK IT ALL THE MORE USEFUL
TO HAVE SOMETHING DIRECTLY FROM THE ISRAELIS OURSELVES.

6. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOMEWAY OF GETTING RAPID
FEEDBACK ON THE DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA PRIOR TO RABBI ROSEN'S
RETURN TO BUCH JULY 10. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S DESIGNATING
SOMEONE WHO COULD SERVE AS LIAISON WITH RABBI MILLER AND
AMBASSADOR KLUTZNICK FOR GETTING THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE
SITUATION.
BARNES

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